

ABSTRACT

A mast for a sailboat and a method of manufacturing the mast or other structural member for a boat, which is produced in a female mold. Any augmentation of the deflection resistance of the structural member is provided by fabric-resin fabric added to the interior surfaces of the until the desired deflection characteristics are achieved. The mast is formed from at least two parts, which in the preferred embodiment are joined together by seam anchor strips, preferably in conjunction with a fabric-resin insert that overlays the interior of the seam strip and extends over a portion of the mast half body. If additional fabric-resin fabric is required after testing, it can be added to the inside surfaces of the mast parts before the trailing seam is sealed. The structural member of the invention accordingly requires no external finishing, and the appearance, taper and aerodynamic characteristics thereof are fully determined by the mold, resulting in a consistently accurate, uniform and aesthetically pleasing product that is considerably less expensive to produce than a conventional fabric-resin structural member and substantially stronger than a comparable aluminum structural member.